



# PARO

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CPSO Policy Department  
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario  
80 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2E2

Via Email: [medicalmarijuana@cpso.on.ca](mailto:medicalmarijuana@cpso.on.ca)

Dear CPSO Policy Department:

Thank you for the invitation to provide feedback on the draft CPSO Medical Marijuana Policy.

We are especially satisfied with the level of detail provided in this draft; specifically lines 66 and 67 as they emphasize that only physicians with adequate knowledge of medical marijuana should be prescribing it. This policy will provide some support for physicians without that education or knowledge.

We believe the policy should include could greater clarity as to whether prescribers who are NOT knowledgeable or comfortable in the prescription of medical marijuana are required to refer a patient with a potential indication for medical marijuana (i.e. terminal cancer pain, etc.) to someone who is knowledgeable/comfortable in that area (i.e. a palliative or pain specialist) in order for a patient to receive an appropriate assessment and possible prescription. Considering the number of physicians who either may be not knowledgeable or comfortable in this area, we feel that this is an important area for direction.

We also feel that the policy would be stronger if there were more clarity as to whether a patient's "right of access" to medical marijuana begins after "conventional" medicine has been trialed. Further, if a patient has trialed pharmaceutical cannabinoids (e.g. Nabilone) and found them ineffective, how does that impact the potential indication for dried cannabis? Would physicians (collectively) still be expected to trial it if they have already trialed a similar drug?

We do, as always, appreciate being included in the CPSO's consultative process.

**Professional Association of Residents of Ontario**

1901-400 University Ave. Toronto, ON M5G 1S5 416 979-1182 - Toll free: 1 877 979-1183 F: 416 595-9778 - [www.myparo.ca](http://www.myparo.ca)